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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/593,688

04/30/2007

Jilani Chrigui

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Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 7th Avenue
14th Floor
New York, NY 10018

EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARC A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1782

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/12/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/593,688

Applicant(s)

CHRIGUI, JILANI

Examiner

MARC A. PATTERSON

Art Unit

1782

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14, 16, 17 and 20-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14, 16, 17 and 20-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

1. The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claims 11 - 17 and 20 as being anticipated by Van Denend et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,972), of record on page 2 of the previous Action, is withdrawn

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 28 appears to contradict Claim 26, in which the step of placing the sleeve over the cylinder is before placing the printing blanket.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
5. Claims 11 – 14, 16 – 17, 20 – 21 and 24 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berg (U.S. Patent No. 3,384,014).

With regard to Claims 11 – 12 and 16, Berg disclose a sleeve (blanket; column 8, lines 24 – 28) comprising an evacuable structure of voids (slots, therefore able to be evacuated; column 3, lines 68 – 72) and an outer surface radially external to the voids comprising a recess (top of cut - out; column 3, lines 2 – 3); the sleeve comprises two layers (fabric backed rubber; column 3, line 19), and Berg therefore discloses a sleeve that is intermediate comprising one of the layers. The claimed aspect of the sleeve being a 'packing sleeve' and being 'for a printing press' and the recess being 'for fixing the printing plate' are directed to intended use and are therefore given little patentable weight.

With regard to Claim 13, the voids run parallel to the axis of the sleeve as shown in Figure 2.

With regard to Claim 14, the sleeve includes an outer lateral surface that is the lateral surface of a right - circular cylinder as shown in Figure 2.

With regard to Claim 17, Berg therefore discloses a lateral plate adjacent to the side, therefore annular, including a cavity because it is adjacent to a hole as shown in Figure 5.

With regard to Claim 20, a method of increasing the outer diameter of a cylinder is therefore disclosed by Berg.

With regard to Claim 21, Berg therefore discloses an outer diameter of the sleeve that decreases when a negative pressure is generated.

With regard to Claim 24, the recess is v – shaped, as shown in Figure 2. The claimed aspect of the shape being 'for receiving' is directed to a process limitation and is therefore given little patentable weight.

With regard to Claim 25, the voids disclosed by Berg are adjacent, as shown in Figure 2, and therefore arranged in a honeycomb shape, therefore a honeycomb structure.

With regard to Claims 26 – 28, Berg discloses insertion of the sleeve into the voids, as shown in Figure 2, therefore partial evacuation of the air in the voids, and therefore discloses a method of mounting a printing blanket comprising placing the sleeve over a cylinder and then placing a printing blanket over the packing sleeve.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 22 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg (U.S. Patent No. 3,384,014).

Berg discloses a sleeve having voids as discussed above. With regard to Claims 22 – 23, Berg fails to disclose a sleeve having voids arranged at concentric groups at different distances from the center axis of the sleeve and located azimuthally offset with respect to adjacent voids in adjacent groups. However, because voids are disclosed by Berg, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to select a location and number of voids depending on the desired bonding between the sleeve and the cylindrical body surrounded by the sleeve.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

8. Applicant's arguments regarding the rejections of the previous Action have been considered and have been found to be persuasive. The rejections are therefore withdrawn. The new rejections above are directed to amended Claims 11 - 14, 16 - 17 and 20 - 28.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1782

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marc A Patterson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1782